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Published by GEORGE ROULSTONE, in Paved-Street.

March 28, 1786.

To the PUBLICK.

THE Subscriber being impressed with the fullest conviction of the usefulness of the TYPOGRAPHICAL ART, and stimulated by the encouragement which he has received from a number of the respectable inhabitants of the several towns in the county of Essex, has now the pleasure of presenting them with the first number of the SALEM CHRONICLE.

It is usual in addresses of this kind to run into extravagant promises, and pretend to more than can be expected.—But, as it has not yet appeared that those who were the most pompous, published better papers than their competitors; the subscriber can only assure the publick that he shall spare no pains or attention to render the SALEM CHRONICLE as useful and entertaining as his abilities will admit; and flatters himself that his generous patrons and others, will impute any inaccuracy in his present pursuit to youth and inexperience.

The usefulness of PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS are universally acknowledged:—they have diffused the rays of science, and informed the people more than any other mode of instruction.

The productions of the learned and ingenious—and all pieces of wit, humour, and entertainment, are most earnestly solicited; whilst all scurrilous and indecent pieces will ever be rejected.

Matters of a personal or private nature, being improper subjects for a news-paper, will be avoided as much as possible, and never inserted but for reasons, which will be a sufficient apology to the publick for the insertion.

As the publisher hereof has been at great expence in procuring his Typographical Apparatus, he earnestly requests his patrons and friends (who are already subscribers) to advance ha' their subscription-money for the prese year; and those who may become subscribers, to pay the said half at the time of their entrance——It will enable him to exert his unwearied endeavours with alacrity, not doubting but he shall receive such support from his generous patrons, as, on experience he shall appear to deserve.

The Publick's most obedient,

And very humble Servant,

GEORGE ROULSTONE.

☞ Those Gentlemen who wish to patronize and encourage the SALEM CHRONICLE, are requested to leave their names with the publisher hereof, or with Mr. JAMES D. GRIFFITH, Court-Street, Boston.

Mr. ROULSTONE,

You are reqested to publish the following in your Chronicle, and you will oblige a number of your Freinds.

An Essay on Discord in States.

Those who promote the Interests of one Part of their Fellow-Citizens only, without any regard to those of another, usher into the Commonwealth the very worst of Evils, Sedition and Discord; whence it happens, that some pass for Friends of the People, others Partizans of leading Men, arce any Study the Good of the Whole.

SO many tragical revolutions, such wild scenes of tumult, discord and confusion occur, in perusing the annals of mankind, that we are half tempted to believe this social animal man, the most ungovernable of all God's creatures; and to ascribe these sad events to that wayward, restless, and perverse spirit, so confidently affirmed by some to be inherent in our nature; still repining at our present condition, always lusting for change.——But when I see the whole universe, as it were, easy, tranquil, and happy, under the auspicious government of a Trajan or an Antoninus, wishing them even immortal, and trembling with the apprehensions of a tyrannical successor; when I behold every where, and at all times, good princes and their people, mutually beloved by, acquiescing and blest in each other, I cannot help rejecting an opinion so injurious to humanity, and acknowledging, that men are naturally well affected to order and government, if it be exercised, as it ought to be, with lenity and discretion; and directed, as it ought to be, for the good of the community.——It would be no presumption to affirm, that if all the political mischief which hath plagued the world, from the beginning of time, were traced up to their true source, we should find it wrought, not by the turbulence or caprice of the many, but by the avarice, the malice, or ambition of a few.——The same identical principle, viz. a desire of possessing their rights and privileges unviolated, which inclines the general body of a people to covet change under a bad administration, will deter them f[illegible]n it under a good one.

I [illegible] reby insinuate, that th[illegible] s the [illegible] never [illegible] gress [illegible]on.— [illegible]re too [illegible]ge, in- [illegible]rt even [illegible]r is, [illegible] civil and [illegible]ous rights, is the capital object of their wishes; that if these are well secured, and they have no good cause to suspect, that the men to whom the conduct of their affairs are entrusted, are pursuing measures repugnant thereto, whoever goes about to make them his instruments, in disturbing the publick peace and tranquility, is most likely to lose his labour.—— Whence then, it will be said, do those civil broils and disorders, that every page of history is loaded with, proceed? In a word, from opposite contradictory interests; from the perpetual attempts on one hand, to violate and invade liberty; and the efforts made on the other, to defend and maintain it.——A notion, says, Mr. Locke, in the 163 section of his Essay on Government, that the Prince has a distinct and separate interest from the good of the community, and is not made for that, is the root and source from which spring all those evils and disorders in kingly government. The case is the same in every form of government; men vested with power and authority, endeavour to aggrandize themselves and families, at the expence of publick liberty; and the people on the other hand, prosecute such endeavours with so much heat and fury, as tends to the subversion of all order and government in the world: Nay, too often terminates in their own ruin.—For artful and ambitious men make these contests the ladder of usurpation, and so in the end enslave both sides.

When Solon undertook to new model the Athenian constitution, he found two factions, of the senate and the people, subsisting, that had long battled it with each other. This reformation was so impartially conducted, as to give offence to neither side. Unhappily it was not radical and compleat. The circumstances of the times would not bear it. 'Twas what he lamented, but could not remedy. The factions therefore continued, and, by means thereof, Pisistratus was enabled, very soon after, to establish his usurpation.

In the same commonwealth, at a distant period of time afterwards, a coalescence of two factions seems to have been formed; for, in confidence of the senate's honour, the people surrendered into their hands the entire management of the State.——But they had immediate cause to repent their credulity and complaisance. The senate, actuated, says my author (Justin) by the haughtiness and insolence naturally inherent in that order, exercised the authority conferred upon them in a manner so rigorous and oppressive,——Insita Genti Superbia crudeliter in plebem consuleret,—— that the people, for the recoverry of their liberties, were obliged to restore Alcibiades, then in exile, and to place him even at the head of their army. An expedient extremely perilous, but then luckily productive of the good intended. For, in a menacing letter to the senate, Alcibiades demanded restoration of the people's rights and privileges, and in case of non-compliance, threatened to come himself at the head of the army, and wrest them out of their hands by force. This letter threw the oppressors into such a panick, that, having first in vain attempted to betray the State to the Lacedæmonians, their great competitors for the sovereignty of Greece, they all took shelter in a voluntary banishment.

Common experience in fact shews us, that nothing inspires men, not only those who are nobly born and descended, but even the vilest offspring of the rabble, with more offensive airs of pride and self-importance, than power and authority. Those who have neither virtue nor ability to gain our love, esteem and reverence, will make themselves dreaded tho' abhorred, for their oppressions and brutality. ODERINT DUM METUUNT. Let them hate me, so they fear me, is the motto of every tyrant, as well puny as imperial; not of him only who is born to sway the scepter, but of him also who is born to sway an axe, and be the hewer of a block.

Each of the above cited events may furnish us with a few useful observations. From the first we learn, that the very power which both parties are struggling for, many sometimes fall to the share of neither; and as both are generally to blame in their conduct, so both are sufferers and losers in the end.

In the second we have a signal instance of the people's moderation, on the one hand, and the senate's ingratitude as well as cruelty, on the other. The power which these two orders had, from the original foundation of their State been contending for, was now, with the assent of the people, thrown into the hands of their antagonists.——A concession so generous on their part, one would think, would claim an adequate return of gratitude and good usage, on the senate's part; but alas! no such matter; the senate considered that resignation as due to their superiour rank and quality, and exerted the very power bestowed upon them by the people only to oppress and grind the givers. So extremely cautious ought we to be in raising men to power, which all are too prone to abuse. And the fate of the senate, who were all driven into banishment by a general and an army, the only expedient, though a desperate one, which the people could have recourse to, for a recovery of their liberties should be a standing admonition to every set of men, not to be over confident of a continuance of the power they may happen to enjoy. For the people will never fail to avenge themselves on their oppressors, tho' by so doing, they may risque their own destruction.

At Rome the effects of these dissentions, betwixt the commons and the nobility, were infinitely more bloody and tragical, than they were at Athens. APUD ATHENIENSES, says Cicero in the place from whence I borrowed my motto, MAGNÆ DISCORDIÆ; IN NOSTRA REPUBLICA NON SOLUM SEDITIONES, SED PESTIFERA ETIAM BELLA CIVILIA. 'Tis impossible to read an account of the massacres and proscriptions under Marius, Sylla, and the triumvirates, without horrour. I shall pass them over as events universally known, observing only that they are a series of the clearest and strongest examples to prove, that an opposition of interests is the first source of discord; that the prior offence is given by invading the liberties and rights of the people; that they resent such invasion with so much blind and headstrong fury, as often terminates in their own ruin, and the usurpation and tyranny of single men.

I could now swell this dissertation, with those civil feuds and contentions that stain the records of modern ages; those which made our unhappy ancestors shed the blood of each other, the rueful effects whereof we feel to the present hour! But gladly would I have them buried in eternal oblivion. Gladly would I see every spark of discord, both civil and religious, extinguished among us so as never to rekindle into a blaze hereafter. But alas! should I not lament, should not every lover of his country lament; that far from being reclaimed by their melancholy example, we ourselves are actuated by the same infernal spirit of division, are splitting into factions, and gratifying private spleen, revenge, and animosity, at a time when our country calls aloud for our united efforts to save her from destruction. Let us therefore, join our hearts and hands, exert every member and faculty in her preservation; and sacrifice to her good all our private grudges and quarrels, and let him alone who denies this, be marked out as the enemy of God, his country, and of mankind.

A SCRAP, *for the* LADIES.

EXPERIENCE has often shewn, that green love like green fruit, produces acid instead of sweets. The mind, as well as the body, should attain maturity, before a union should be attempted, to which, if the mind does not assent, the probable consequence is a series of unhappiness to each of the contracting parties.

But on the other hand, delay is equally dangerous, and when